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# Nigeria-Niger Border Community Relations With Special Reference To Kamba-Gaya Borderlands: Issues and Impacts (1999-2020)


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## CHAPTER-I

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Kamba-Gaya borderland is one of the most unique but less-researched borders in West Africa. It has been a heaven of many intriguing and complex activities that are characteristics of these terrains on the African landscape. At this border very little is known about how the borderland communities perceived and relate to the boundary. Therefore, this study attempt to investigate the prevalence of cross-border community relations along the Nigeria-Niger border. Just like in other African border areas, the Nigeria-Niger Republic borderland consists of partitioned communities who continue to view and treat the boundary as artificial and non-existent. These communities perceived it as an imagined boundary or a transnational environment without border where social interconnections and movements can be made without hindrance. In the process this has determined and dictated their use and misuse of the border in the pursuit of education, health, trade and other shared socio-cultural relations which in the end have enmeshed the border into the everyday social life of the partitioned borderland communities. These communities have traditionally been bounded by commonalities like: colonial heritage; cross-border affinities; common culture and languages. Extensive migration and barter trade was a feature of economic and social life of these communities that predated colonization[1].

This study tries to pinpoint how these natural boundaries was thwarted by the infamous Berlin conference of 1884-1885. As a result, people, ethnic groups, nations and nationalities have been disintegrated. The European agents were primarily interested in grabbing as much African territory as possible at that time and were not concerned about the consequences of disrupting ethnic groups. Perhaps no part of Nigeria-Niger Republic international boundary has this assertion so evidently valid as Kamba and Gaya borderland.

[1] Ogalo, v. (2010*). Informal Cross-Border Trade in aec: Implicatios for Regional Integration and Development*. Geneva Resouce Centre. And Miguel, E. (2004). Tribes or Nations? World Politics ,PP No.56, Also see,327-362.

The Berlin Conference of 1884-1885, also known as the Congo Conference or West Africa Conference regulated European colonization and trade in Africa during the new imperialist period and coincided with Germany's sudden emergence as an imperial power. The Conference was organized by Ottovon Bismarck, the first chancellor of Germany. The General Act of the conference is the formalization of the scramble for Africa. The Conference contributed to ushering in a period of heightened colonial activity by Europeans, which eliminated or overrode most existing forms of African autonomy and self-governance.

Lord Slavery quoted to have said after the signing of the Anglo-French convention in 1890 which foreshadowed the international boundaries between Nigeria, Dahomey, the Niger Republic and the Chad Republic, thus:

> "We have been engaged in drawing lines upon maps where no white men's feet have ever trod; we have been given away mountains and rivers and lakes to each other, but we have only been hindered by the small impediment that we never knew exactly where those mountains and rivers and lakes were"[2]

The Europeans have divided the continent in total disregard to local conditions, of geographic, ethnographic, linguistic and cultural composition. Moreover, the scramble for Africa surgically divides the future nations using pencils and rulers without paying any considerations for differences and similarities among these communities[3].

Relations between various states of the region were closely linked to Trans-Saharan trade and later the Islamic revolution in the Western and Central Sudan. Trade between the two border communities of Nigeria and Niger in general along the region existed over two thousand years ago[4]. In addition, there were socio-economic relations between what is today known as Nigeria and the Niger Republic long before colonialism. Trade of items such as salt, potash, dates and domestic animals from many parts of Niger Republic, were usually brought to Kano and other part of Northern Nigeria. In exchange, northern Nigeria exports grains, manufactured

[2] J.C. Anene (1973) The International Boundary of Nigeria: 1885-1996. Longman Group Limited, London.
[2] Nshimbi, C. C., Moyo, I., &Oloruntoba, S. O. (2018*). Borders, informal cross-border economies and regional integration in Africa*-an introduction. *Africa Insight*, *48*(1), pp. 3-11.
[3] Bereketeab, Redie. (2011) *"Inter-State Conflicts in the Horn of Africa." African Sarvi: Horn of Africa Journal , 3(4), p.6*

goods like cloths, leather goods, etc. Other commodities include kolanut from the Yoruba land in Nigeria.[5] Similarly, trade in the region and along these border areas fostered good relationships; it also influenced migration of people from many parts of Niger Republic to be settled in places like Kano, Borno (Nigeria) etc.[6] It is generally believed that before colonization of Africa in the 19th century, there was enormous connection and reciprocal relationships amongst numerous people in the continent. The colonization gave rise to the creation of different sovereign nation states in what was hitherto used to be homogenous geopolitical, cultural and economic entities Nigeria and Niger Republic are not in exception.

The increasing nature of interactions and interdependence between and among nations, communities and states especially a cross borders, has in recent times attracted many international relations scholars to study the nature and dynamic of different kinds of cross-border activities that exist between and among different borderlands of the world. Cross-border activities are promoted by free trade, activities of international organizations, desire of central states to promote certain interest, and activities of regional organizations.[7] Other reasons pushing such desires may include social, economic, and geographical proximity shared by the borderland's communities.

Some factors that led to the emergence of the socio-economic relations along these border are the socio-cultural and ethnic relations among these communities, bond of trust, the shared religious belief, interest and involvement in the political activities across the border, border proximity, the cheapness of Nigerian goods, and easy acceptability of Naira(Nigerian currency) and easy convertibility of CFA Franc(Nigerien currency) for settling trade transactions, helps to facilitate the conduct of the relations. Kamba-Gaya borderland is one of the areas identified with high level of cross-border activities in West African region.

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[4] Garba, C.I.(1989) "Wellcome Address". In Asiwaju, A.I & Barkindo, B.M (Eds*), Nigeria-Niger Transborder Cooperation.* (12-14). Lagos, Malthouse Press. P.7

[6] Hinjari, W.L (1989). "Impact of an International Boundary on Political and Social and Economic Relations: A case Study of Kano/Katsina States of Nigeria and Niger Republic In Asiwaju, A.I & Barkindo, B.M (Eds) Nigeria-Niger Transborder Cooperation, (pp.152-168). Lagos, Malthouse Press and Barkindo, B.M (1989). "Relations Between Kano and the Republics of Niger's Region of Asbin (Air) Maradi and Damagaran (Zinder); Perspectives for Evolving a More Viable Transborder policy Between Nigeria and Niger" In A siwaju, A.I & Barkindo, B.M (Eds), Nigeria-Niger Transborder Cooperation. Lagos, Malthouse Press, 123-141

[7] Brunney, Emmanuel. (n.d). Comparing Local Cross-Border Relations Under EU and NAFTA. Retrieved on 23-03-2020 from http://questia.com/reader.

Nigeria and Niger Republic are contagious neighbours and congruent states within Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) sub-region both Northern Nigeria and Southern Niger Republic today is what Miles, called "Hausa land Divided" This is because both communities had historically shared similar socio-economic, cultural and geographical aspect and common lineage dating back to pre-colonial days.[8]

The borderland is less than 1 km from Kamba and just 1km from Gaya. The boundary separates similar tribes in Nigeria with Niger Republic most of these tribes have the same sociological, ethnic and historical background; they claimed to have come from the same ethnic origin. They have the same language, religion, ethnic and cultural practice.[9] Nigeria-Niger border Republic is what Africanists frequently termed as 'artificial border' as it splits the same linguistic area across various bi-national kindred.[10] Politically, the border divided African political system, particularly chieftaincies. Many Africans chiefly polities were greatly affected by artificial colonial partition of the border in pursuit of nation-states**[11].**

Road leading to Dole -Kaina border town. At the other side of the road is a Niger Republic village also called Dole-Kaina

[8]Miles, F.S.W. (1994), "*Hausaland Divide; Colonialism and Independence in Nigeria and Niger*", Ithaca, New York, Cornell University Press

[9](E.C. (1999): *Sixth Periodic Report in the Social and Economic Situation and Development of Regions in the European Commission*, Luxembourg, P.21

[10]Hughes, David. (2008). From Enslavement to Environmentalism: Politics of Southern African Frontier.Seattle: University of Washington Press.

[11] Duri, Fidelis. (2010). "*Informal Negotiation of the Zimbabwe-Mozambique Border for Survival Mutare's Marginalized People",*in Journal of Developing Societies, PP. 26:125

The picture above shows the road leading to a village called Dole Kaina in Nigeria and the other side of the road is a village in Niger Republic also called Dole Kaina France. The Nigeria-Niger Republic boundary passes through this village, Dole Kaina, with one half of the town falling in Nigeria's Kebbi State and the other in Niger's Dosso Department. The residents of the town are fluent in Hausa, Zarma, (a local language) English, and French. The town is being occupied by the Nigerians and Nigeriens and are living peacefully. They use the same currency (Naira), and CFA France share one market, and move freely. Sharper News, 2020

The arbitrary partitioning of these homogenous communities and chieftaincies has impacted the way people view, and use, the border. The border was drawn without respect for social, cultural and linguistic grouping.[12]. People of a common culture and language live on both sides of the border, sharing knowledge of various kinds, connected by neighbouring markets and villages across the boundary. The climate, and crops that are grown such as maize and groundnuts, as well as language and culture, are such that the two areas seem to be one territory[13].

The implication of the socio-cultural ties between border inhabitants of Nigeria and Niger Republic is that they interact without any serious restrictions. The above demonstrate the artificiality and arbitrariness of the boundary demarcations and point out the link between the border communities. The historical and social ties between Nigeria and Niger Republic are not affected by the international sharing of boundaries. It is however pertinent to stress here those socio-economic relations amongst the border communities' help in the exchange of goods and services, it facilitates inter-marriages and thus fosters strong socio-cultural ties. Besides the Nigerian border markets and that of its neighbours are highly integrated through

[12] Beach, David. (1992). "The Origins of Mozambique and Zimbabwe: Palva de Andrada. The Companhia de Mozambique and African Diplomacy, 1881-91", Seminar Paper No.89. University of Zimbabwe; Department of History.

[13] Herbst, Jeffrey. (1989). "*The Creation and Maintenance of National Boundaries in Africa", in International Organisation* 43:4.) and Pophiwa, Nedson (2007). A History of Smuggling Among Borderlands Communities Astride the Zimbabwe-Mozambique Border, With Reference toPenhalonga and Nyaronga, 1990-2006. University of Zimbabwe Press., P.43-44.

these relations that also act as a means for exchange of ideas. This can be regarded as one of the important ingredients that aided the bilateral relations between the two countries.

## 2.1 THEORETICAL APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF BORDERS AND BORDERLANDS

Three broad approaches have been advanced in studying international boundaries (the Structuralist, the Functionalist and the Neo-Functionalist), which have influenced perceptions both in border theory and practice. They serve as analytical approaches in understanding the interactions between border communities along the borderland. Theoretical framework is an important tool that guide and directs the research work.[14]

The Structuralist Approach: The Structuralist approach manages states boundaries with "one rule for all" policies, while the Functionalist approach employs integrative trans-border mechanisms to manage everyday trans-boundary realities of the borderland communities. [15] In other words, the Structuralist treatment of boundaries is a "state-centric approach" whose exclusive preoccupation is with the maintenance of the sanctity of the integrity of the state while other considerations are relegated to the background.[16]

For the Structuralist, international boundaries are barriers and filters, separating foreigners from nationals. In short, the government and state elite regards boundaries as an immutable feature of the state from which the character and essence of the state derives; it marks the extent of its territorial jurisdiction, beyond which are foreigners whose access into the state must be controlled and within which are citizens who must be protected and provided for.[17]

The Structuralist approach regards the international boundaries of the state as the juridical extent of state territory and sovereignty. While the Functionalist perspective is centred on

[14]Goode, W, and Hatt, P. (1952): Methods in Social Research, Singapor, Mc Graw Hill Book Company Inc.

[15] Stoddard, E. (2002:45). The U.S.-Mexico Borderland Studies: Multidisciplinary Perspectives and Concepts. EIpaso: the promontory

[16] . Olujimi, K. M. (2010). Implications of Colonially Determined Boundaries in (West) Africa: The Yoruba of Nigeria and Benin in Perspective. Doctoral Thesis. School of Government and International Affairs.University of Durham.Retrieved from Durham E-Theses Online: http://etheses.dur.ac.uk/496/.

[17] Van Creveld, M. (1999). The Rise and Decline of the State. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

issues of "low politik", the Structuralist approach focuses on the "high politik" of the realist school of international relations. Central to the Structuralist approach in the study of international boundaries are the twin concepts of "territoriality and sovereignty". The Structural approach emphasises the doctrine of territorial integrity, which refers to a preoccupation of the state with the issues of self-preservation and accumulation of power aimed at maintaining territorial and political continuity.[18] The approach is hinged on three core assumptions:

1. Nation states are homogeneous coercive entities where all subgroups accept their respective national goals and objectives;

2. Formulating policies affecting the survival of the state is the exclusive preserve of national leaders with the basic assumption that interests of the various sections are aggregated as the interests of the state;

3. The singular function of every international boundary is the maintenance of the territorial integrity of the state it encloses. The responsibilities of national leaders include the preservation of territorial integrity by protecting the people and its land from external encroachment (Stoddard, 2002:42).

The Structuralist framework (particularly, the works of Boggs, 1940; Kristof, 1959; Prescott, 1965 and 1970) is employed mostly in finding solutions to boundary related issues of national sovereignty and territorial integrity.[19] However, this approach has proved inadequate in the study of contemporary international boundaries, particularly those that partition previously existing homogeneous cultural groups or ethno-communal identities along borderland regions. The preoccupation of the approach with the maintenance of territorial integrity over every other consideration ignores the everyday realities of the people around

[18] Losch, A. (1954). The Economic of Location. New Haven: W.F Stolper.

[19] Boggs, S. (1940). International Boundaries: A Study of Boundary Functions and Problems. New York: Columbia University Press. Border Communities Development Agency (Amendment) Act, (2006). Retrieved from http://www.bcda.go

the boundary region as well as the age-old history of relationships and affinities that had existed prior to the colonial demarcation, which colonisation and subsequent (independent) state system have not been able to completely eliminate.[20]

Another important criticism of this approach is its assumption that state and society, or state and nation are necessarily synonymous and therefore, the application of "one-rule-for-all" approach of the state. This assumption informs the aggregation of the interests of the people by the political elite as the interests of the states. In other words, the interest of the state in policing (and maintaining) the boundary is equated with the interests of the people.[21]

However, this attitude is constantly queried as the same people cross the same boundary for sundry reasons and circumvents state policies in spite of the strictures imposed by the state. This dichotomy in perception between the state on one hand, and the people (communities) on the other and subsequent policy by the state have contributed in no small measures to the failure of the Structuralist approach in transforming the barrier challenge of boundaries (which are often conflict prone) to cooperative and integrative advantages.[22] Another challenge for this approach is that, it fails to take into cognisance the contrasting perspectives between the state as the (government) and the society (people); thereby highlighting the implications of such situations for both the state and the people as well as for inter-state relations.

The Functionalist Theory to the study of international boundaries was developed by Mitrany, Jones, Stoddard and others as a reaction to the failure of the Structuralist school in the study of boundaries. It takes off on the premises that certain research endeavours could not be effective if restricted to formal institutions, but they must spread to include informal groups and organizations. Functionalism involves the employment of sociological and

[20] Ibid

[21] Olujimi, K. M. (2010). Implications of Colonially Determined Boundaries in (West) Africa: The Yoruba of Nigeria and Benin in Perspective. Doctoral Thesis. School of Government and International Affairs. University of Durham. Retrieved from Durham E-Theses Online: http://etheses.dur.ac.uk/496/.

[22] Kristof, L. (1959). The Nature of Frontiers and Boundaries. Annals of the Association of American Geographers. 49(3), 262-282.

anthropological techniques and conceptual frameworks in the understanding of certain political phenomena which traditional political science techniques alone would not be able to adequately address. It provides tools for the analysis of informal, non-institutional politically relevant activities; it reduces value orientation to an insignificant degree; it is concerned principally with what happens, and not such ethical judgment as what ought to happen.[23]

The Functionalist theory contrary to the Structuralist views boundaries as points of "differential converters" to ameliorate socio-economic and political differences between people and institutions across international boundaries. It is based on "the doctrine of mutual necessity or symbiotic reciprocity, which promotes cooperation and integration."[24] It acknowledges and employs informal functions and affinities between people straddling a bi-national boundary. The perspective promotes permeable boundaries, which allow unfettered mutual cross boundary interchanges.[25] In other words, the Functionalist approach views boundaries from the perspective of the people whose interests are secondary or ignored in the statist approach. The Functionalist theory is a dynamic view of contemporary boundaries based on land use and ownership customs. At the primitive stage of the development of human social organizations, primeval societies were essentially nomadic. They frequently moved about in tribal bands in search of fruits and game as well as land to be used in the simplest form of tillage. Also, at initial stage of human development, life was essentially insecure, "nasty, brutish and short"[26] Travels and communications were hazardous and hampered by natural obstacles and wild beasts.[27] In their continuous search for fertile land,

[23] Jones, R. (1967). The Functional Analysis of Politics: An Introductory Discussion. London: Routledge and R. Paul.

[24] Stoddard, (2002) The U.S.-Mexico Borderland Studies: Multidisciplinary Perspectives and Concepts. El Paso: the Promontory

[25] Asiwaju, A. I. (1984). Towards an Ethno-history of African State Boundaries, In the Methodology of Contemporary African History, (1984). The General History of Africa: Studies and Documents. Report and Papers of the Meeting of Experts Organized by The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Paris: Imprimerie des Presses Universitaires de France, Vendôme.

[26] Tomas Hobbes, (1991). Leviathan. In R. Truck (Eds), Cambridge: Cambridge University.

[27] Cukwurah, A. (1967). The Settlement of Boundary Disputes in International Law. Manchester: Manchester University Press

they came into contact with other groups from whom they must have been separated by natural barriers. Competition and conflicts necessarily ensued over access to land and other resources. Subsequently, some forms of crude limits of territories were worked out, usually in the form of frontier zones insulating neighbouring groups from each other. In these buffer zones, a whole range of interactions including annexation (of the frontier) went on without necessarily violating each other's designated ancestral lands or territoriality.[28] When modern state boundaries (with precise locations and as the absolute limits of state territoriality) were imposed in the New World, Africa and much of the Third World, frontier zones disappeared but indigenous borderland peoples continue to use them in surmounting the disruptive impact of boundaries as well as exploiting them for economic gains through trans-border arbitrage among others.[29] The Functionalists view frontier networks as continuous trans-boundary linkages, the so called "cultural borderland (CB)"; a permanent non-state system for coordinating activities of contiguous cultural areas separated by colonial boundaries.[30]

Since boundaries in Africa are colonial impositions with little or no regard for pre-existing boundary situations, local trans-boundary cooperation usually subsists in spite of the structurally-induced strictures imposed by states. Thus, there are three fundamental postulations of the Functionalists on boundaries.[31] Namely:

1. A contemporary nation-state is made up of a sundry array of interest groups and social classes as well as a complex mosaic of ethnic, racial and religious categories

2. Trans-boundary interfaces involving cultural, economic, political and ideological influences preserve important channels of communication between local populations straddling international boundary. These local informal networks allow local authorities to coordinate common regional goals while reducing bi-national tensions between the states.

[28] Ibid, no.24

[29] Ibid,no.25

[30] Ibid,no.21,p,46

[31] . Ibid,no.15,p.62

3. Whenever centrist structural policies for the borderland are ineffective, and porous local functional practices are employed in attempts to find solutions to current border problems. Regional and local jurisdictions, more familiar with chronic boundary irritations are more appropriate to support functional policies which reflect realistic solutions to boundary problems. These functional assumptions about the nature of boundary are important in the understanding of the primacy attained by functionalism over structuralism in boundary studies in recent years. While the Structuralists believe that the nation-state is coterminous with the society and as such, collective policies are made on such bases which have had grave repercussions for the borderland communities and regional integration; the Functionalists on the contrary, see the modern state as being comprised of a mosaic of interests and social groups. State decision makers must necessarily factor in these multifarious interests and aspirations in the decision making process about boundaries and borderland communities.

To the Structuralists, the singular function of the boundary is "territorial maintenance with its attendant separation and exclusion tendencies". Indeed, to this school of thought, any amount of "boundary leakage" is a measure of the state's ineffectiveness in asserting its territoriality. This perception of boundary by the state fosters rival territoriality and competition between neighbouring states that should rather be involved in cooperative and symbiotic relationships.[32]

However, the Functionalists advocate permeable boundary to cater for the realities of everyday interactions with the boundary by people who live along and are directly affected by the boundaries. The livelihood of these people are tied to the boundaries as they are largely left to their own devices by the state whose policies toward the border are largely characterized by neglect, as these regions are considered peripheral zones. The Functionalist approach to boundaries and borderlands is based on community oriented and bottom up approach in understanding boundaries and borderland communities. The Structuralist approach with its one rule-for-all approach has proved to be inadequate in understanding and handling the dynamics of everyday reality of the borderland communities as well as their interactions with the boundary. The Functionalist approach, with its focus on historical,

[32] Ibid, no. p.47

social and cultural linkages and affinities of the people as well as its view of frontier networks as continuous trans-boundary linkages have proved to be very useful in the contemporary globalized system as well as interstate relations. As many inter-state boundaries in West Africa are colonial creations with little or no regard for pre-existing boundary situations, local trans-boundary cooperation usually subsists in spite of the structurally-induced strictures imposed by states. The bridge-building characteristics of functionalism is also significant in terms of cooperative inter-state relations between geographically contiguous states hosting fractions of the same ethnic group or communal settings partitioned by an international boundary, ultimately fostering sub-regional integration.

The Neo-Functionalist Theory The theory of Neo-functionalism began to take shape with the works of Ernst Haas‟ The Uniting of Europe (1958); Haas‟ Beyond the Nation-State (1964); Lindberg‟s The Political Dynamics of European Economic Integration (1963) etc

. Neo-functionalism is an off-shoot of the functionalist theory of relations and integration proposed by David Mitrany with some significant departure. The main departure from functionalism relates to one of the main criticisms of functionalism that is, its inability to see the relevance of political processes in international cooperation.[33] However, Neo-functionalism reintroduced territorialism in the functional theory and downplayed its global dimension. Neo-functionalists focused their attention on the process of integration among states, that is, regional integration. The theory places major emphasis on the role of non-state actors (especially, the secretariat) of the regional organisation involved and the interest associations and social movements that are formed at the level of the region (in providing the dynamics for further integration). Integration is seen as a gradual and self-sustaining process, a functional spill over, political spill over and supranational institutions. Neo-functionalists defined integration as a process whereby political actors in several distinct national settings are persuaded to shift their loyalties, expectations and political activities towards a new

[33] . Rosamund, B. (2005). The Uniting of Europe and the Foundation of EU Studies: Revisiting the Neo-functionalism of Ernst B. Hass. Journal of European Public Policy. 12(2), 237- 254. Retrieved from http://www.jstor.org/stable/425431832Accessed: 01-03-2016 09:18.

centre, whose institutions possess or demand jurisdiction over the pre-existing national states.[34].

The end result of the process of political integration is a new political community, superimposed over the pre-existing ones. Ernst Haas is the central figure who theorized the community method pioneered by Jean Monnet. It argues that states should begin integration modestly in areas of low politics, and a high authority should be set up as a sponsor of further integration; the first steps will create functional pressures for integration of related sectors and the momentum would gradually entangle national economies and social interests; deepening economic integration will create the need for further institutionalization, making political integration and a long-term system of peace inevitable.[35] While building up its theoretical construction with the description of political community, the founding father of neo-functionalism, Haas (1961) describes the political community as a condition in which specific groups and individuals show more loyalty to their central political institutions than to any other political authority, in a specific period of time and in a definable geographic space.

Neo-functionalists accept that the integration starting in an economic sector would spread over to other sectors by creating a strong interdependence and wealth. Neo-functionalists call this automatic process (functional spill-over /FSO) and attach importance to that concept. Spill over is a way of describing the central dynamic of that process where successful integration in an area of lesser salience leads to a series of further integrative measures in linked areas so that the process becomes increasingly involved with issues of greater political importance.[36] In his original formulation of the term, Haas defined it as a situation where the creation and deepening of integration in one economic sector would create pressures for further economic integration in other sectors of the economy.[37]

As a result of this process, economic integration starting in a limited sector spreads primarily to other sectors of the economy and eventually covers all spheres of national economies participating in the integration. In his book, Lindberg tried to define the concept even more

[34] Ernst Haas. (1964:16). Beyond the Nation State. Stanford: Stanford University Press
[35] . Rosamond, B. ( 2000:52). Theories of European Integration. Palgrave, New york.

[36] Taylor, P.G. (1983:9). The Limits of European Integration. New York: Columbia University Press.

[37] . Ibid,no.34, p.283

generally but in a more compact form: Spill-over refers to a situation in which a given action, related to a specific goal, creates a situation in which the original goal can be assured only by taking further actions, which in turn create a further condition and a need for more action, and so forth.[38]

For Haas, the spill-over of integration from one field to another was not only based on economic determinism but rather on changes in the attitudes of key decision-makers and interest groups (Haas 1964). Hence, Haas sees the political field in two distinct parts as high and low politics. High politics, including diplomacy, strategy, defence and national ideologies, is the hard field to start integration. In other words, areas of low politics refer to economic and social life while areas of high politics refer to those concerning national defence and governmental structures, and are highly related to the security and survival of a nation state.[39].

In the neo-functionalist concept, nation-states are reluctant to lose their sovereign authority in the field of high politics. Therefore, Haas proposal is based on starting the integration process by low politics embodying economic and technical spheres. The integration in the field of high politics would be a natural consequence for regional integration process. As such, Haas identified three background conditions that were preconditions for successful integration namely: pluralistic social structures, substantial economic and industrial development and common ideological patterns among the participating units. [40]

To explain the conditions vividly, Lindberg (1963:7-13) emphasises four preconditions for integration in inter-state relations as follows: i. Central institutions and central policies should be established and developed, because only they can assure that someone represents and promotes the (inter-state, cross-border or regional view) as well as solves disputes between member states; ii) Their tasks and capacity to implement those tasks should go well beyond the mandate of normal international institutions; iii) Their tasks should be inherently

[38] Lindberg, L. (1963:10). The Political Dynamics of European Integration. Stanford Bridge: Stanford Bridge University Press.
[39] Mattli, W. ( 1999:23). The Logic of Regional Integration: Europe and Beyond. Cambridge : Cambridge University Press
[40] Ibid,no.34, p.374- 375

expansive; iv) There should be some link between the interests of member states and the process of integration. Besides functional spillover, there is another kind of spillover called "cultivated spillover / CSO" (Nye, 1971:202). Cultivated spillover refers to the situation that the achievement of new policies is not because of functional pressure or package deals, but cultivated by leaders representing the international institutions.[41] According to Nye, this type of spill-over takes place when some sort of driving forces behind the integration (for example, politicians or technocrats) form coalitions, which deliberately promote increased integration.[42]

The upgrading of member states" common interests relies on the services of an institutionalized autonomous mediator.[43] Political spill-over (PSO) is not necessarily about political integration, but refers to political linkage of package deals that can be very complex. The emphasis is on actors and their (often haphazard) interaction. The process emerges from a complex web of actors pursuing their interests within a pluralist political environment. [44]

Thus, the concepts of cultivated spill over and political spill over bring in new factors that shape the process of integration particularly, the institutionalized autonomous mediator and a complex web of interest groups. Although neo-functionalism provides a more predictable approach than functionalism and it analyses the actual policy-making process, it underestimates the importance of nation states and, to a certain degree, the legitimacy of policies. It seems to stress too much on the subnational and international actors across territorial borders. The interactions between interest groups and governments, the concerns of political leaders, and the governments adapting to the changing needs is significance in neo-functionalists view. However, nation states" preferences and the hostile relations between states are overlooked. Even when relation between states is gainful, the lack of trust may still prevent nation states from cooperation in high politics. Other perspectives have emerged in

[41] Cini, M. (2003:86) .European Union Politics. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

[42] Joseph, Nye. (1971:202). Comparing Common Markets: A Revised Neo-Functionalist Model. In Lindberg and Scheingold (Eds.), Regional Integration. Theory and Research. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

[43] . Ibid, no.39, p. 26.
[44] Ibid, no.35,p. 55

explaining the reality and root causes of borders in relation to the social construction of space (human geography) as well as the legal explanation of borders and borderlands.

Boudjema, explains three perspectives to the study of borders and frontiers. They include: (1) The Terminological Perspective which distinguished between "boundary" (the linear concept) that describes a line as it traverses the land and maritime regions of the earth's surface, and "border" (a spatial concept) that relates to the zone extending along either side of the line set forth. This perspective fails to put into account the reality of territorial borders which defines both the boundary as well as the delimited zone, not only the line delimiting the area under the jurisdiction of each of states. (2). The Legal Perspective viewed borders from the legal viewpoint as "the line that separates the territory of one state from the territories of neighbouring states". In other words, each of the state exercises its sovereignty within the confines of its territorial space. This perspective clashes with the idea of borderless zone or the neo-liberal policies of free movement as well as openness of political frontiers. It is also refer to as "the pragmatic approach" (Kolossov and Scott, 2013:3) because it sees border as "a dynamic functional process of every day construction through or as a result of political discourses and institutions, media representations, school textbooks, stereotypes and everyday forms of transnationalism". It suggests that borders are not only "semi-permanent institutions" but are also non-finalizable processes. (3). The Doctrinal Perspective perceive borders as "an artificial line drawn by humankind in order to separate or share human entities between themselves, or as a line describing the boundary of the territory occupied by the state and over which it exercises sovereignty". This neglects the role of political elite in border construction.[45]

Kolossov and Scott called the Doctrinal perspective a "critical approach" arguing that, it is the process of "theorizing, questioning, and contesting the conditions that give rise to border". It generally focused on highly critical re-evaluation of the relationship between states, societies and the borders they create. Their works focused mainly on land borders and

[45] Boudjema, M. (2014:59). International Border Delimitation. In Delimitation and Demarcation of Boundaries in Africa: General Issues and Case Studies. Second Edition, Addis Ababa: Department of Peace and Security, African Union Border Programme

the relationship between societies across territorial borders, but they failed to link the perspective or provide ample analysis of other classification of boundaries either at air space, seaports, or territorial waters. In other words, they are one sided in their analyses.[46] However, Alvarez (1995:449) identifies two main approaches to the study of borderlands. The first is known as the "literal approach" which focuses mainly on the actual problems of borders as its affects concrete social and economic realities of communities and people between nation-states. In this, the major concern is on cross-border migration (CBM), national versus individual (ethnic) identity, trans-border settlement along with environmental policy, as well as labour and health policy. For Alvarez, relations along border and between peoples are often defined as "cross-cultural relations. This approach neglects issues of territorial integration, openness of territorial borders for international cooperation, as well as border governance in terms of security cooperation. In other words, the approach challenged some of the assumptions of liberal policies of international cooperation and integration in the contemporary global context. The second approach is the "a-literal approach" otherwise known as the metaphorical approach to borderlands studies. This approach focus on social boundaries on the geopolitical border and also on all behaviour in general that involves "contradictions, conflict, and the shifting of identity". This approach is too myopic in addressing the issues of borders and borderlands. In other words, it fails to take into cognisance the nature, pattern and dynamics of the contemporary world system where identity is less emphasized in inter-state relations across regional or territorial boundaries (though with little exception to less developed countries, where they see border identity as social practices and cultural beliefs and where they separates borderlands from social forms of peoples and regions). [47]

Finally, most research on borders and borderlands perceived borders either as markers of historical memory and local identity or as conditioners of local setting and everyday attitudes. In other words, they specifically focused on factors that led to mass movement of

[46] . Kolossov, V. and Scott, J. (2013:3). Selected Conceptual Issues in Border Studies.Belgeo (En Ligne).Retrieved from http://www.Belgeo.Revues.Org/10532 Accessed: 12-12-2022

[47] Alvarez, R. R. (1995:449). The Mexican-US Border: The Making of an Anthropology of Borderlands. Annual Review of Anthropology, 24, 447-470. Retrieved from http://www.jstor.org/stable/41857182Accessed: 21-12-2022

peoples across border, smuggling, refugees, forced migrants, as well as cross-border kinship, marriage and other social relations that affect the nature and dynamics of territorial borders. But they pay little attention to the nature and dynamics of cross border community interactions as well as the inter-state relations particularly in the third world countries.

For the purpose of this study, functionalist theory was employ as a tool in analysing Kamba-Gaya border community relations. The application of the theory would provide a greater insight and understanding of the relationship. Secondly, the study is built on the fact that countries and societies have common goals for which it is worth to unite for a common good.

**The relevant of the theory to the study**

Despite its shortcomings, the theory is relevant in providing a relevant framework through which states, communities, and organizations and of course institutions can mutually relate and develop through peaceful interdependence. In this respect, the study employs the theory to describe how shared interests and functions brought about socio-economic interdependence and development between Kamba-Gaya border communities. It also describes how such interaction positively and negatively affects the relations between Nigeria-Niger Republic in general. Consequently the theory will be utilized to fully answer our research questions

## 3.1 CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION

Any meaningful conceptualization must begin from a context-based approach which cannot be independent of each other.[48] It is very much important to clarify some concept in this work to enable an in-depth understanding of the study.[49]

**Border: is** an area, where more than one political system is intertwined with the existence of local residents which would influence the socio-economic sphere of bilateral relations. Close

[48]Osaghae, Eghosa, E. ( 2007*). Fragile States. Development in Practice,* 17, P.4-5

[49]Anderson and O'Dowd (1999). Introduction: Why Study Borders Now? Regional and Federal Studies, 12:1-12. (P.603)

proximity of neighbourhoods enforces less formal contacts between the different nationalities living on both sides of the borderline.[50] It is a "location where one country's authority over goods and persons ends and another country's authority begin."[51] Border area is a territory in which economic and social life is directly and significantly influenced by the proximity to another country.

Natural boundaries are those boundaries marked by "natural features such as oceans, seas, lakes, rivers, swamps, forest, deserts and mountains". While the artificial boundaries on the other hand are often not marked by natural features rather manmade (construction). Even though, these classifications provide a better understanding of boundaries particularly in Africa, the explanation is simply myopic in that, they solely consider physical elements of boundary demarcation as well as geographical line of delimitation of territorial sovereignty as the central theses in approaching border, boundary, and frontier discourses. In other words, the classification given above did not put into cognizance the technical and concrete meaning of artificial and natural boundaries.[52]

Artificial boundaries (AfB) are laid down often when "no clear natural obstacle separates the physical terrain". Such boundaries are two types: (a) Astronomical boundaries (AB) "delineated according to parallels of latitude or longitude" e.g., the boundary delimiting Algeria and Mauritania; the boundary separating Alaska (USA) from the Yukon (Canada) etc. and (b) Geometrical boundaries (GB) which consist of "either a straight line connecting two known points, or an arc of a circle". The Natural (or geographical) boundaries (N/GB) on the other hand, are categories of borders which are by far the most preferred by states and is subdivided into different types: (a) Orographic boundaries (OB) pertain to "mountainous regions" and can be configured in three different ways: (i) Crest lines which is seen as "the ideal line that links the highest summits of a single chain of mountains". For example, the southern segment of the Algeria-Libya border; etc (ii) Watersheds situated between two

[50]Asiwaju, Ahmad,I. (1985). *Partitioned Africa: Ethnic Relations Across Africa's International Boundaries*, 1884-1984. New York:St. Martin's Press

[51]Barka, .Habiba,Ben. (2012*). Border Post, Check Points, and Intra-Africa Trade: Challenges and Solutions.* OPEU News Letter, pp1-18.

[52] Ibid,no.45,p.62

hydrographic basins and passes along the physical division of the two catchment areas (for example, the Franco-Italian border); (iii) Line along the foot of mountains which passes along the base of mountain massifs.[53] Among the natural boundaries, there is (b) Fluvial boundaries (FB) are draw.

**Borderland**: This is a zone adjacent to a boundary, in which lives of the residents are leverage by relations with their neighbours on the other side of the border.[54] Borderland contribute to the facilitation of the movement of people, and goods and services, they also impact the formation of strategies and policies tied to cross-border interactions.[55]

**Border Community Defined**.

Border communities, share a sense of history, place and are located in a specific geographical region, normally near the borders of two or more nations. They have cross-border contacts and cultural affinities, such as common language, religion, and occupation with communities on the other side of the country's borders.[56]

Border communities are usually associated with historical and kinship ties between the people separated by political boundary restore and enhanced through conventional border activities and economic exchanges across the border.[57]

"Border Communities" considers its closeness to different countries, diverse cultural and other practices. They are multicultural, travelling and trading frequently takes place. They can be points of international conflicts, when countries are engaged in disputes. They are territories that facilitate frequent trade and exchanges.[58] They lack political and economic control necessary for taking decisions, they are located at the periphery of states which

[53] Ibid,no.45,p. 62-63

[54] Johnson, Collins. (2011). "Interventions on Rethinkinng "the border" in Border Studies" Political Geography, 30(2):61-69. Doi 10.1016/j.polgeo.2011.01.002 .

[55] Slusarciuc, M. (2015). The Economic Potential of Crossborder Areas. Opportunities and Threats. Procedia Economics and Finance. 32. 801-808. 10.1016/S2212-5671(15)01465-3.

[56] Hawley, C. (2005). In Altar, Teeming with Trans ients, small Town shares Arizona's Conflicts over impact of illegal Immigration. The Arizona Republic (Phoenix) (August 21), Al, A20.

[57] Amster, M.H. and Lindquist, J. (2005*). Frontiers, Sovereignty and Marital Tactics: Comparison from Borneo Highlands and the Indonesia-Malaysia-Singapore Growth* Tiaangler . The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology, 6(1) PP.1-17

[58] Cohen, Eric. (1974*). A Conceptual Clarification, Sociological Review*, 22. PP.527-555

makes it easy for cultural and shared values to be preserved.[59] They can be summed as communities that straddle the border. Some of these communities may fall on one side of the border making it exclusively a part of a country while some are being divided by virtue of the borderline that cut across them, making them a part of both sides of the border. In Nigeria, these communities exist across the different regions that share boundaries with neighbouring states with Niger Republic just like my case study. For this study, border communities are a community of multilingual communities who speak more than one language; they are always making linguistic choice, sometimes consciously and at other times unconsciously. They manipulate their national identities, with many people acquiring and claiming citizenship in different countries and taking advantages of rights and privileges of citizenships, but rarely exercising the corresponding duties.[60]

**Trans-Border Relations**: Creates greater connection between individuals, communities and societies across borders bringing about changes in social, cultural, economic and political landscapes of societies of origin and destination.

**Cross-Border Relations:** This contained in developing a structure of relations that help to evolve socio-economic alliance and disposed of cultural and social barriers in borderland.[61] It also acts as a tool for the creation of socio-economic, institutional, political and cultural collaboration and partnerships. It serves as a point at which neighbouring states develop cross-border interactions with one another.[62]

**Cross-Border Activities**: This is defined in this study as the movement of people across the border of the two states with a view to enhancing their socio-economic activities. These activities may be formal or informal. It is informal when due processes of border

[59] Charles, Martin, Hall. (2009). *Tourism: Rethinkig the Social Science of Mobility* London Pearson Education

[60] Asiwaju, Ahmed,I.. (eds). (1985*). Partitioned Africans: Ethnic Relations across Africa's International Boundaries* 1884-1984. Lagos: University of Lagos Press, pp.11-14

[61] Guo, Maruo and Kurowska-Pysz. (2018). Studying Borders, Evaluating Border Effects, Cross-Border Resources Management (Third Edition), Amsterdam, Elsevier.

[62] Pipkin, S. (2018). Cashable Value: Social Capital and Practical Habits in the Analysis of Collaborative Cross-Border Economic Development. Journal of Borderlands Studies, 33(3), 329–350. https://doi.org/10.1080/08865655.2016.1197789

crossing are not followed. It is formal when all legal process of crossing a nation's border is met. These include the use of passport, pass, visa and other protocol agreed by both states.

## 4.1 REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE:

Aristotle, recognized the social nature of man when he said, man is a social Animal. Man cannot lead a happy and contented life if he lives in isolation. Therefore there is a great need for relations, which can be considered as the basic principle underlying human life. Scott Thomson stresses the importance of relations of close neighbours. He opined that "Canada is more important to the United States than any other single country". It will not therefore be an over statement to say that Nigeria's own neighbour such as Niger Republic is of primary significance to Nigeria. This is particularly true in this era of increasing interdependence of states on one another since states cannot leave in isolation given their limited resources as well as the fact that some resources are shared with other countries. This has called for greater cooperation and collaboration, between states.

Relations between nations are conducted under the leverage of many factors such as cultural similarities, language, and shared common international boundary. Shared international boundaries provide an opportunity for creating and maintaining positive or negative relations between the affected nations.[63] Common ideas, norms, beliefs, socially constructed identities in both sides of the border facilitate the emergence of cross-border linkages because it makes cooperation, collaboration and joint decision making easier.

Trans-border relations is about transforming the border in to a source of opportunities and potentialities to develop.[64] **W**ith reciprocity and good-faith, cooperative behaviour between states has led to inter-state cooperation becoming an element of customary international law.

[63]Omed Alex, J., (2006) "Nigeria Relations With her Neighbours", Journal of Tribe and Tribals.4(1), (PP.7-17) , Kamla Raje Press.

[64]Javier, Pastore. (2011). Cross-Border Cooperation Benifiting from Borders, Javior Associate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, Helsinki.

With the establishment of the United Nation, customary law, inter-state cooperation has become an important principle of the UN charter.[65]

For relations to function effectively, every business, works, leisure activities, culture, social activities should be given a wider significance and on both sides of the border should involve and cooperate at the national, regional and local levels.[66] Cross-border relations are collaboration between contiguous sub-national authorities across national border.[67] Cross-border affiliation contain in building a structure of relations that help to evolve socio-economic alliance and dispose of the cultural and social barriers in borderlands.[68]

Cross-border between Canadian Provinces and the U.S States to Lubin such relations are politically motivated. Also Denis, Maillat stated that privileged relations that results from a proximity effect" is the consequence of shared language, culture, and market proximity or commuter frontier workers and best form of cross-border relations.[69] Cross-border relations within the EU and also outside EUs borders aims at managing issues that are beyond the limits of individual communities, such as social affairs, economic development, minority issues, cross-border employment and trade.[70]

[65] Colic, Leb. (2015). One Step at a Time: International Law and the Duty to Cooperate in the Management of Shared Water Resources. Water International, 40 (1), pp.21-23

[66] European Comission (1999): Sixth Periodic Report in the Social and Economic situation and Development of Regions in the European Union Commission, Lxembourg.

[67] Perkman, Markus. (2003).Cross-Border Regions in Europe: Significance and Drivers of Regional Cross-Border Cooperation". European Urban and Regional Studies 10(2): PP.153-173

[68] Guo, Maruo, and Kurowska-Pysz. (2018). Studying Borders, Evaluating Border Effects, Cross-Border Resources Management (Third Edition), Amsterdam, Elsevier.

[69] Lubin Martin. (1988) and Maillat, D. (1988) "New England, New York and their Francophone Neigborhood" Perforated Sovereignties and International Relations: Trans-Sovereign Contact of Subnational Governments. New York: Greenwood Press.

[70] Scott, John. (2016). EU Enlargement, Region-Building and Shipting Borders of Inclusion and Exclusion. Aldershot: Ashgate

Cross-border cooperation particularly economic cooperation is an instrument that stimulates the creation of robust benefit within the economy.[71]

Relations across the border create room for integration and rapport between regions, communities and institutions. It facilitates communication and cooperation, as well as curtails the absence of awareness between, the bordering communities, it leads to exchange of ideas, transfer of knowledge, it reduces daily problems both at local and regional level.[72] Relations among nations connote coordination of activities among member states to achieve objectives that cannot be achieved separately by each other.[73] Cross-border relations support to resist structural deficiencies that are vastly doled out due to the locale at the bordering state.[74]

Relations across the boundaries are source of economic and cultural exchange as well as building political coalition for regional development purposes.[75] Relation across the border offers opportunities for social, economic and organizational development in border areas. It makes border areas competitive, economically sustainable and highly integrated.[76]

Cooperation is any activity jointly by two or more organizations, aimed at generating public value by working together instead of being separate from each other;[77] this definition covers a comprehensive range of governmental and non-governmental organizations. Both cities and regions pursued economic progress and political aims through international cooperation and

[71] Bradley, James, and Best,M. (2012). Rethinking Regional Renewal: Towards A cross-Border Economic Development Zone in the Ireland. The Journal of Cross-Border Studies in Ireland PP. 37-58

[72] Leick, et al (2011). From Post-Modern Visions to Multiple Scales of Bordering: Recent Trend. European Study of Borders and Border Areas Eurasia Border Review,1, PP..17-28

[73] Sesay, Amanda. and Omotosho, M (2011). The Politics of Regional Integration in West Africa

[74] Medeiros, Elli,.J.R. (2010). Old vs Recent Cross-Border Cooperation:Portugal-Spain andNorway-Sweden. Area,42. PP. 434-443.

[75] Popescu, Goodie.(2008).The Conflicting Logics of Cross-Border Re-Territorialization: Geopolitics of Euroregions in Eastern Europe, Political Geography 27 PP.418-438

[76] Cividin, Alimamy. (2006*). Irish Cross-Border Cooperation: The Case of the Northwest Region, Mapping Frontiers, Plotting Pathways.* Working paper No 14 Presented at the Institute for British-Irish Studies, University College Dublin.

[77] Bardach, Emmanuel. . (2001*). Developmental Dynamics: Collaborations as an Emergent Phenomenon*. Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory, 11(2), PP.. 149-164).

through trans- boundary alliances between states, regions and other sub-national governments.[78]

Cooperation promotes understanding among nations, communities and strong cohesiveness among people, creates mutual ties and awareness.[79] It is the procedure by which states within a particular region increase their level of interaction with regard to economic, security, political or social and cultural issues.[80] Shared borderlands can eliminate conflicts and promote cooperation. Since independence Nigeria's relations with its neighbours is depicted by some variables such as, socio-cultural and economic linkage, also bilateral and multilateral links between them.[81]

Cross-border relations are geared towards transformation of nation-state and their consequences for economic, political, social and cultural life.[82] Partitioned African communities have made up their minds to ignore the demarcated boundary in their daily affairs especially at the village levels to continue their social relations across these boundaries as if the boundary does not exist the same is the case of Kamba and Gaya borderlands. It is a method through which nations voluntarily interact and mingle, with their neighbours, develop new techniques for figuring out conflicts among themselves.[83]

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[78] Soldato, Henry. (1993). Cascading Sub-National Paradiplomacy in an Independent and Trans-National World. In DM. Brown and EH. Fry (Eds), state and Provinces in the International Economy, pp.45-64 Barkely:UCBeckely/Institute of Gramatical Studies).

[79] Sanusi, Husaini, Umar.. (1993) *"Imperative of Trans-Border Cooperation*" in Asiwaju/Barkindo (eds) Opcit PP.. 22-23

[80] Morten, K. (1992) "European Integration and Political Theory", Political Studies, Copen hagen Press

[81] Strassaldo, James. (1988) Border Studies: The State of the Art in Europe. In Borderlands in Africa: A Multi-Disciplinary and Comparative Focus on Nigeria and West Africa, eds, A.I. Asiwaju and P.O. Adeniyi, Lagos: University of Lagos Press, PP. 383-395

[82]Duchacek,I. (1986). International Competence of Sub-national Governments: Borderlands and Beyond. In O. Martinez, Rroberto. (Ed.). Across Boundaries. Trans border Interaction in Comparative Perspective (pp.11-28).El Paso: Texas Western Press

[83]Haas, Ernest B. (1971). The Uniting for Europe: Political, Social and Economic Forces, 1950-1957, Stanford University Press

Relations across the border entail how national units share a part or all of their decisional authority in terms of political, economic and social for their development.[84] Nigeria and Niger Republic have shared particular ethno-cultural and economic sameness that are more stunning than the disparities embodied between the two communities and the two countries in general.

**Border Community Relations an Empirical Study**

**T**he dynamics of border communities' interactions between countries are marked by several factors such as political and socio-economic context of countries that they border with, the length of these common borders, the regulations at formal and informal border crossing points, the ethnic background of communities, and the nature of economic activities and opportunities in the border regions. Given this diversity, this study attempt to draw the examples of border community relations and dynamics of people to people contact from, Europe, Asia, America and African continent

**Rene, Newman (2021).** A study among people living at the frontier zone of East Benin Republic and Western part of Nigeria in Sub-sahara Africa. Despite the control mechanism put in place by both governments to check and restrict movements, it has become very common for people living in the localities of Avlapa, Atta, Alepe, Kouti, Fouditi and ber-kobejo communities to cross the border daily. Historically these communities have common history, outlook, behaviours, and their lifestyle from the wider norms of Benin Republic and Nigeria respectively. Within each group were exists cross-border commuters, consumers, and people who are inclined to embrace both cultures. His study examines issues that are responsible for dynamism in interaction, the evolution of this dynamic interaction between and among the people and the consequence of such interactions.[85]

[84]Schimitter, Collins, P. (1970). *"A Revised Theory of Regional Integration*" international Organisation, University of Wisconsin Press.

[85]Rene, Newman. (2021). *Living at the Frontier Zone Among People of Eastern Benin Republic and the People of Western Nigeria.* Himalayan Journal of Education and Literature ISSN Print: 2909-3565/ ISSN online, PP. 2709-3573 By Rene NgekMonteh 2021

**Sewoenam, C.and Tope, O. (2020)**

Their studies explored language practices in the school domain in Aflao-Lome on the Ghana-Togo international border. The boundary line dissected the Ewe community thus, creating two contrasting communities: French speaking Ewe and English speaing Ewe. These communities were also divided by the infamous Berlin Conference of 1884-1885. The study investigates language practice in two schools located on either sides of the border. The data shows of adherence to state medium of instruction policy in class room by teachers and pupils, and language activities outside class room when formal "language policy" is negligible or in fact non-existent Sewoenam, Chachu and Tope Omoniyi. (2020). Language Ideology and Practice on the Aflao-Lome Borderland: The Case of Two Border. Journal of Borderland Studies V (37), 2022 https://doi.org/10.1080/08865655.2020.1824684

**Haris, Khan. (2020)** conducted a study on border communities between Azerbaijan and Georgia, state that the communities along this border are strategic partners, extending their cooperation to trade. The border communities in the Azerbaijan side often cross the border to the Georgia side to buy various products and avail themselves an opportunity to health care services. These communities of the Lagodekhi (Georgia) and Balakan (Azerbaijan) provides a good example of successful cross-border cooperation. The local municipalities jointly organize cultural and sports events as well.[86]

**Haris, K. (2020).At the Afghanistan-Pakistan border t**he ethnic groups such as the Pashtuns, live both side of the border, representing a substantial number living in the district bordering Afghanistan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan "The communities on both sides of the border have maintained close contacts owing to their traditional cultural, linguistic and economic ties. Extensive trade networks, both formal and informal, run across this border. The border market offer border communities economic opportunities to engage in trade and business. Tribal connections and cultural bond across the borders gra.nt the communities an unhindered journey across the border. The border communities particularly in Afghanistan

[86] Haris, Q. Khan (2020). *Strengthening Cross-Border Community Collaboration in the Cenral Asia Regional Economic Communit*y (CAREC 2020)

rely on cross-border commuting in addition to livelihood related interactions, to access education and health care. In the rural border areas, most Afghan border residents need to travel to Peshawar, Pakistan for medical care.[87]

The study also looked into the Afghanistan-Tjikistan border. This border stretches 1,206 kilometres, from Uzbekistan's tripoint in the West until the People's Republic of China in the East. The Amu Darya, Pyanj and Pamir rivers draw this border almost entirely; except for the Wakhan corridor section in the Easternmost part Afghanistan. Agriculture provides the source of income for those living in the border areas, transport connectivity and access to markets, as well as reliable on water and land reinforcing the relationships, among these communities.[88]

**Abdurahman, Dangana, Lukman. (2019**). Conducted a study among the Lolo and Madecali communities along Nigeria-Benin Erpublic border. According to his study the people at this border had many things in common and were linked together by internal trade route, geographical influence and thus simply lived in peace with one another. The study examined the relations in various aspects of life before and after colonialism. The paper discovered that historical, cultural and economic relations between the two communities predate colonialism and this is due to the belief by the people that they are one and belong to same ancestor. The study put forward some recommendations as a means of enhancing the age long relationship between the two communities which include establishment of joint institutions in the area of education, health, economic and culture to sustain not only the relationship but also to preserve the rich culture of the people

Switbert, R. (2018). In his study on cross-border healthcare services utilization. The study has focused on Tanzania- Uganda borderlands to examine the context within which the Tanzania-Uganda border-Landers evaluate health process available at hand. The study indicate that the nature of healthcare problem, availability of missing healthcare needed at

[87]Ibid, p.38

[88]Ibid, p.38

home, social networks, economic and cultural capital and cross-border resources sharing experience influence cross-border healthcare service utilization.[89]

Sylvia, N.Iinvestigated. (2017). His study was on the discursive identity of a community separated by a national border. The town of Busia cuts across the Uganda/ Kenya border and the community language is considered to be Lusamia. The study investigates how speakers of Luasmia on both sides of the border construct their linguistic identities in relation to their own linguistic repertoires and the linguistic repertoires of others across the border.[90]

Anusa, Daimo. (2016). His studies explore how partitioned Shoda ethnic communities along Zimbabwe-Mozambique border viewed and used the border. To the border communities the border does not exist, they have traditionally viewed the border as an imagined boundary or a transitional environment without borders where social interconnections, movements and trade can be made without restrictions. Thus, they daily practice commuter migration on foot. Most Mozambicans prefer commuting to the better Zimbabwean schools and hospitals across the border, while most shopping and kinship rites are conducted in Mozambique In this process, the Zimbabwe-Mozambique border has been reduced to an artificial and arbitrary boundary which does not respond to what the local people believe to be rational boundaries. The border constantly shifts according to the dictates of the partitioned communities.[91]

Fulgencio, Lucas and Muti Seda (2015). Their studies examined the frequent border crossing among the three communities along Mozambique-Malawi (Madimba); Mozambique-Zimbabwe (Machipanda); and the Mozambique-South Africa (Ressons Garcia) borderland. The study investigated the frequent and daily movement of people which is part of their life activities for achieving their wellbeing. The communities cross the border for

[89] Switbert,Rene. And Agatha, F. (2018) International Journal of Innovative Research and Development. ISSN 2278-0211. Vol.7 issne 6. 2018

[90] Sylvania, Nahayo. (2017). Language in Society. An Introduction to Socio-Linguistic. Oxford: Oxford University Press

[91] Anusa, Diano (2016). Commuter Migration Across Artificial and Arbitrary Borders: The Story of Partitioned Communities Along the Zambia-Mozambique Border.

shopping, schooling, and for medical care. They shared the same historical, social, economic and cultural ties among themselves. The study examined also examined some of the localised cross-border consequences of these practices on community living in cross-border regions.

Elena, Barabanstseva. (2015). Sino-Vietname Border Communities. This study examines the changing practice in the context of the Sino-Vietnamese border in the Guangxi region in China. With an increasingly rigid and clearly delineated Sino-Vietnamese borderland, binary forms of classification began to replace earlier fluid identification, and the room for diverse social and cultural expressions became restricted along the border between the two communities. It is within this context the issue of ethnic marriage practice across the border of China and its Southern neighbors this study has investigated. The local Chinese border town Aidian shares 25.5 kilometre border with Vietnam's Lang Son this border is a point of interaction, connection, and trade between China and Southeast Asia. The township around the borders is an ethnic composition of different administrative villages who have relatives in Vietnam and maintain close link with the Yao across the border where the nexus of cross-border ethnic marriages is taking place.[92]

**Suhana et al. (2014).** Conducted a study on border community relations between Malaysia and Indonesia, among the Sarawak (Malaysia) and Kalimantu (Indonesia) border community, according to them before establishing the concept of modern States the two border community has a common identity and culture based social milieu they inherited. However, after the establishment of borders, collective identity has been divided into a number of national identities in relation to their respective nationalities, and yet the formation of modern States did not destroy their collective identities and their socio-economic and relations.[93]

Romaine, S. (2014). Investigated "how neighbours communicate," this is a linguistic study in the border region where Norway meets Russia in the North. The study investigates language use when contact is made at the border. The Norwegian and Russian languages are

[92] Elena Barabantseva, (2015). Cross-Current: East Asian History and Culture Review E-Journal No. 15 June (2015) http//cross-currents.berkely-edu/e-journal/issued/-15

[93] Suhana, et al. (2014). Border-Community Relations Sarawak (Malaysia) and Kalimantu (Indonesia). Malaysian Journal of Fundamental and Applied Science ISSN 2289-599).

very different in vocabulary and structure which makes communication difficult. How are the two languages affected by extended contact and migration across the border? The study shows ongoing developments where the neighboring language is increasingly noticeable, and there is a link between attitudes, identity and language use.[94]

Adetunji, Musilimu. (2014). In his studies title Trans-border Movement and Trading Activities across Nigeria-Benin Republic Border. The study examines the salient factors that are responsible for movement of people across the borders. The studies covers three local government areas of Ogun state of (Nigeria) sharing border with the Republic of Benin. The study reveals that, people move freely across the border to visit their friends, engaged in social functions and involved in trans- border trading activities.[95]

Junaenah et al. (2014). His study was on Communities at Malaysia-Indonesia Borderlands. He stated that livelihood is a major concern for these communities; the study has discussed the socio-economic dynamics of Sarawak-Kalimantan border communities, whose villages are obscured from the mainstream of development. The paper focuses on issue of livelihood and sustainability of these border communities particularly the Bidayuh ethnic living in Seriki (Sarawak) and JagoiBa-bang (West Kalimantan). The study has explored participation of these communities in the socio-economic spheres within the border areas and also assessed the extent to which livelihood of these villagers are influenced and affected by such dynamics. The study has explained the unique social phenomenon taking place at the margin of development in Malaysia, it examine the embedded cultural and social alliances which helps sustain the tradition of economic exchange between the communities on both sides of the borders.[96]

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[94] Romaine, Sylvania. (2014). Language in Society: An Introduction to Socio-Linguistic. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

[95] Musilimu, Adetunji.(2014). Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences, MSCER Publishing Rome-Italy 5(1) January 2014. Cultural Boundaries pp.193-213 London: Ashgate Publishing Limited)

[96] Junaenah, Coolman. (2013) Development at the Margins: Livelihood and Sustainability of Communities at Malaysia-Indonesia Borderlands

Akyuz, L. (2013). This study investigates how border economy shapes intra-group ethnic relationship in the border region of Hopa town which is located along Turkey-Georgia border. The study examine one side of the relationships, among the communities and emerging dynamics of their intra and inter-group dynamics of ethnicity and gender among those who live along Turkey- Georgia border region. The study has explored economic activities that are specific to the regions and the form of participation in these activities shapes the dynamic of social and cultural life of the two border communities. The study also has explored the socio-economic relationships as well as family and kinship relations involving two ethnic groups along the border, Laxis and Hemshins border.[97]

Michael, Elena. & Reed, L. (2009). His study on borderland livelihood strategies: The socio-economic significance of ethnicity in cross-border labour migration, examined cross-border ethnic relations as an important socio-economic strategy for the borderland of Iban communities in West Kalimantan, Idonesia. This community according to him seeks for lucrative wage work, used their ethnic identity to facilitate circular labour migration across international border into Sarawak, Malaysia as a strategy which has compromised their claims to Indonesian citizenship. The study examines the close interconnections among cross-border labour migration, ethnicity, and identity and citizenship.[98].

Janschitz and Kofler (2006), border communities between Austria, Slovenia and Italy has close historical and economic ties, political decision making process and similarities in social pattern were among the factors that serve as the catalyst for community relations on all sides of the borders, which is being considered as multi-cultural living space by virtue of shared history and material culture, as well as geographical proximity. All the countries at the border, as member states have assumed a common European identity and benefited by financing programmes of cross-border cooperation and INTEREG, the financial framework

[97] Akyuz, Latife. (2013). Ethnicity, Gender and Border Econoy: Living in the Turkey-Georgia Borderlands (Border Regions). From http://etd.lib.metu.tr>upload Google search. Accessed 12-08-2021.

[98] Michael Eilenberg and Reed, L. (2009). Asia Pacific Viewpoint, Vol.50 No.1 ISSN 1360-7456, pp.58-73

helping various projects and activities which aims at promoting economic development, traffic, tourism, water management, and cultural relations for the three border areas.[99]

**EU (2005) on German-Czech Border.** At the German-Czech border, of the European Union. A Research has been conducted on Brenstein and Vejprty communities. These towns were chosen mainly because of their geographical similarities; they are directly adjoining communities on the Saxon-Czech border. The existence of historic border between Germany and Czechoslovakia could be hardly felt by the communities. Vejprty had a majority German population and could be regarded as a prospering industrial town. Neighboring Barenstein is a small town and has benefited from a number of factories in Weipert. The study has revealed that the two communities could have been regarded as one entity. Both the communities regularly cross the border, going to work, and for leisure activities to the other side of the border. Marriages across the border were very normal among the two communities because of their similarity in both culture and lifestyle.[100]

The Canadian Policy Research Initiative (2005) Cross-border activities promote economic links, socio-cultural ties and the presence of cross border organizations, and economic link, promotes greater trade and enhances social relations between the parties involved. This is clear in US-Canada border relations. Furthermore, the interwoven culture and values among the borderland communities facilitates the creation and expansion of cross border ties and progress.[101]

Dankama, S. (2004). This is a study between Nigeria and the Republic of Niger with particular reference to border community relations, using Dankama (Nigeria) and Gazaoua

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[99] Janschitz, S. &Kofler, A.C. (2006). Protecting Diversities and Nurturing Communalities in a Multi-Cultural Living Space. In V.Pavlovich-Kochi, B.J. Morehouse, & D. Eastl Water , Challenge Borderlands. Transcending Political and Cultural Boundaries (pp.193-213). London: Ashagate Publishing Limited.

[100] E.U, (2005). Czech-German History in Biographical Interviews at the Border: Constructions of Identity and the Year 1938 in BarensteinVejprty. In Meinhof (ed) (2002a), PP.95-118.

[101] Canadian Policy Research Initiative (2005), "Canada-US Relations and the Emergence of Cross-Border Regions", From http://www.policyresearch.gc.ca/Canada-US relations).

(Niger). The study has examined the nature and character of the relationships in the past and present, in various aspects of life before and after colonialism. The study has explored the historical, cultural and economic relations between the two border Communities[102]

Manuel, C. (1996). This study was conducted between the border in North America with the United States require unique frames of interactions from Canada and Mexico, and that generates different models of interface. Despite being friendly neighbors, the three North American countries engage in complex and interdependent activities that go beyond institutional and official contexts such as trade, energy, environment and security. In fact the richness of the interaction is due to the intensity of social, cultural and territorial relations studying, North American borderlands communities reveals the growing of their social, economic and political forces, that connect them with each other and a constant increasing in complexity of their border communities.[103]

Mokoshy, Z. (19989). His study looks into aspects of one of the ethnic group across the Nigeria-Niger border the 'Fulbe'. Having shed light on the people, their geography, language, livelihood and the nature of their movement, he concluded that the Fulbe are peaceful in relations with the Hausa across the borderland. The Fulbe tribe, despite belonging to different tribes of different states, still recognised themselves as a single entity, with their activities having little or no regard for the border. The study points out that their free movement enhance cross-border relations among these nations, thus boosting the socio-economic activities of the two states.[104]

Akhigbe, M. (1988). Observed the historical linkages that made the people of Oyo Empire (Nigeria) and the people of Ougadougu (Benin Republic) to share many things in common. According to him, before the balkanization of the continent in the 19$^{th}$century, there were

[102] Dankama, Sani. (2004). Dankama-Gazoua Community Relations. (UDU Press).

[103] Manuel Chavez, (1996) "Beyond the Market, Political and Socio-Economic Dimension for Mexico" In Karem Roverts& Mark Wilson (eds), Policy Choices Free Trade Among Nations (East Lansing, Michingan State University Press 1996

[104] Mokoshy, Zubair A. (1989) "Fulbe and the Transborder Relations Between Nigeria and Niger" In Asiwaju, A.I. & Barkindo, B.M. (Eds), Nigeria-Niger Trans-border Cooperation, (pp91-99). Lagos, Malthouse Press.

contacts and cultural relations among various people from old Oyo Empire a nd Ougadougu in Burkina Faso that the communities along the borders areas are economically, socially and politically related and integrated in spite of the conflict over the Bakassi peninsula.[105]

**Makila.F.E. (1978).** His study was on the Kenya-Uganda Border community Relations. Community relations across the Kenya-Uganda border can only be understood within the international domestic state society dynamics defining its functionality. In regard to the specific relations between the Babukusu and Bagisu communities who occupy western Kenya and eastern Uganda respectively have enjoyed a corporate past whose history transcends the common Kenya-Uganda border. This past manifested in the people's common history of origin, migration, and settlement in their present area. Cultural practices such as marriage, circumcision, burial and naming are common among them. The historical dynamics defining the relations between Babukusu and Bagisu have influenced the nature of their social, economic and political interaction with other neighbouring communities that include the Bantu, Nilotic, and Cushitic groups.[106]

What the above scholars have said about border communities' relation is relevant to the Kamba-Gaya border communities. The above scholars have talked about other border communities along Nigeria-Niger border and other part of Africa, Europe, Asia, North America, and Latin America border community relations, or on the relation between Nigeria-Niger and relation between other countries around the globe in general. Since my area of study is related to Nigeria and Niger and bordering on trans-border cooperation the literature reviewed is certainly going to prove useful and helpful in the conduct of my research work.

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[105] Akhigbe, Mike, O. (1988). The Challenges of Parallel Administration Along the Borders: The Lagos State Viewpoints. In Asiwaju A.I &Igue, O.J. (Eds). Nigeria-Benin Transborder Cooperation. University of Lagos Press, PP.10-11

[106] Makila, F.E. (1978). Old Issue and New Challenges: The Migingo Island Controversy and the Kenya-Uganda Borderland. Journal of Eastern African Studies 42 2010, PP. 331 -340

## 5.1 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Why despite the official policies of border crossing the nature of the relationship among the border community continue in a more dynamic ways?

2. How do the political and socio-economic relations among the border communities facilitate the relationship between Nigeria and Niger Republic.?

3. What are the objectives of African Union Border Management in the region and the prospects of the political and socio-economic integration of the two countries in general?

## 6. 1 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The study attempts to demonstrate the fallacy of African boundary demarcation laws and policies based on divisive colonial boundary setting. The study will throw light on how colonial boundary strained close relationships between the two communities despite the fact that they came from the same origin, shared the same economic system, socio-cultural, and political similarities. The study appreciate the historical relationship of this community living across the two boundaries, and the extent to which residents share a sense of community belonging, an attraction to place and develop a pattern of regular interaction among themselves across the border and a sense of trust and mutuality. The study is significant as it attempts to suggest that, the African Union Border Management (A.U.B.M) could play a role in redrawing African boundaries in away acceptable to people, with a view to remove divisive colonial boundary. The policy of removing border walls that separate people with close economic, political and socio-cultural affinities is not a new phenomenon it was applied in Schengen in Europe. The study also considers the present era of globalization which is advocating for economic, political and social integration among nations, globalization is no longer interested in defining the traditional border lines, but rather it promotes building a strong relationships and global cooperation, and proper coordination among nations, communities, individuals, organisations etc.

The study has both theoretical and empirical significance. From the theoretical aspect, it would advance frontiers of knowledge, especially as it relates to the conduct of Nigeria's socio-economic relations with Niger Republic. The research is also going to enrich the available theories and knowledge on issues related to Nigeria's bilateral relations and also

contributes to the volume of literature on Nigeria's foreign policy specifically socio-economic relations. Empirically foreign policy makers, managers of public and private sectors of the Nigerian economy, the academia, and the general public will find it useful in the field of knowledge and the study is enriching and inspiring volume for most of the readers because of its efforts in giving a widespread issue related to socio-cultural, political and economic aspect of relations across the border.

Finally, the researcher thinks that relations of this nature will not be without implications. The open border policy would attract massive immigration, terrorism, and impact sovereignty issues. Hence there is need to safeguard the interest of the local people, and open border policy may prove to be difficult. Therefore, the study will suggests that the A.U.B.P should establish a security committee from two sides of border responsible for curtailing the problems.

## 7.1 JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY

The study can be justified on a number of grounds. First little has been written on cross-border socio-economic relations between Kamba and Gaya border communities in general. This calls for a full scale and detailed examination of the relations. This study assumes that, such a full scale and detailed examination of the relations can contribute to broader understanding of the nature and dynamics of the relations.

Secondly, Kamba-Gaya border community relations in particular and Nigeria and Niger relations in general have not been given the required attention it deserves in the period 1999 to date. The period 1999-2020 was the returned to democracy where the two countries built a strong relationship, they have had encouraging bi-literal relations towards greater political and socio-economic relations. Therefore the lack of so much existing academic work on this aspect primarily justifies this research work. More importantly this work bridges the wide gap created by this lack of extensive literature on the area. The research also is justified for its indispensable contribution to the existing body of knowledge and solving some practical problems in the area of study especially in enhancing the old age relations with Niger Republic, as the two countries share common international boundaries.

## 8.1 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

1. To examine the nature and dynamics of Broader Community Relations and Nigeria and Niger Republic in general
2. To evaluate the extent to which political, and socio-economic relations between Nigeria and Niger Republic influence border community relations.
3. To explore the role of the African Union Border Management in the region (AUBM) and prospects of socio-economic and political integration between the two states.

## 9.1 Hypothesis

1. The peaceful co-existence between the communities is more as a result of their similarities rather than the role played by the Nigeria and Niger Republic.

2. That relations between border communities have continued as they were in pre-colonial boundaries in spite of official policies with regard to border crossing.

3. That economic relations and interactions between border communities serve as the bedrock for social, political and other aspect of relations.

## 10.1 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This is basically a qualitative research. Based on this nature, the study employs the qualitative method of data analysis. Qualitative methods deepen understanding of the nature and character of the relationships. The research depends on primary and secondary sources of data. The former would include in-depth interview with the key informants (semi-structured interviews) and the respondents of this research constitute the border community residents, traditional rulers, officials of civil society organisations, experts, civil servants, traders, drivers, serving and retired border security agents such as police, customs, immigration and all those who engage in carrying out socio-economic and political activities between the two borderlands of Kamba-Gaya. These groups are chosen on the basis of factors like: The history of their settlement and their experience and researcher observations will also be used. The researcher's ability to speak the local language of the research communities help to facilitate the interviews.

The secondary sources of data consist of review of existing literature such as books and other written sources, such as academic journals, print and electronic media, as well as relevant information from the web-sites. Correspondence between the states and between local governments of the two communities would be studied.

The sampling strategy to be adopted in this work is purposive/judgmental sampling in selecting respondents for an in-depth interview. The choice of this sampling is informed by the fact that the phenomenon under investigation requires expertise, experience, and familiarity with the area of study. Therefore, only concerned stakeholders who are knowledgeable enough were selected for interviews. The respondents were purposively selected based on the judgment of the researcher having satisfied the above criteria (see the list below)

**Categories of Persons to be interviewed**

| S/N | Personalities | Nigeria | Niger Republic | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Customs | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| 2 | Immigration Officers | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| 3 | Cross Border Traders | 3 | | 6 |
| 4 | Traditional Rulers | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| 5 | Religious Leaders | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| 6 | Experts | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| 7 | Drivers | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| 8 | Civil Servants | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| 9 | Civil Society Group | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| 10 | Border Residents | 3 | | 6 |
| **Grand Total 60** | | | | |

To complement the above, field trips are to be taken to places of importance such as Kamba, Gaya, and their markets and to occasions of social or cultural activities in both communities so as to observe and get first-hand information of such activities.

A semi-structured (face to face) in-depth interview was organized with various groups listed above from both Nigeria and Niger Republic sides of the border (see the list below). Renowned academics on border studies from the University of Niamey and Usmanu Danfodio University Sokoto were interviewed to get an in-depth academic perspective on cross-border political and socio-economic relations. From the residents of the border communities, an interview session was organized with the traditional rulers (traditional authorities) and residents of the Kamba-Gaya border communities to get their different perspectives about the relationships. The research thereafter assesses the role of the residents of the border communities in the enhancement of the relationship and other trans-border issues. To draw raw data, a total of 60 adult respondents were selected for an in-depth interview.

Focus Group Discussion was also conducted. The purpose of the FGDs was to seek first-hand information and listen to the residents of border communities and other targeted respondents so as to build an understanding based on their ideas and experiences about what is happening within their communities. Another reason for the FDGs with the residents is because the research was qualitative in nature that deals with "explanations of social phenomena and find answers to the questions like: how opinions and attitudes are formed; why people behave the way they do; how and why cultures have developed in the way they have; how people are affected by the events that go on around them; and the differences between social groups" [107]In other words, a Qualitative research method is one in which the inquirer often makes knowledge claims based primarily on constructivist perspectives. [108]

[107] Hancock, B. et al, (2009).An Introduction to Qualitative Research. Nottingham: The NIHR RDS EM.

[108] Creswell, J. W. (2003:21) Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches. Second Edition, London: SAGE Publications Inc.

## 11.1 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Currently, African countries are facing a task of managing their borders in ways that safeguard their national sovereignty, cooperation and regional integration. Relation between Kamba-Gaya border community in particular and Nigeria and Niger Republic in general is thought to be a matter of necessity. Politically, there is great need for relation between the two communities as neighbours sharing a number of factors in common. What happens in one community has the potential effect in the other.

This study is about Nigeria-Niger Republic border community relations focusing on Kamba-Gaya border communities. The border between these countries was demarcated in 1960's, by the border demarcation committee appointed by France and Britain respectively, the two countries remained separated.[109].

Relation between Nigeria and Niger Republic is increasingly becoming important and diversified. Since the independence of the two states in 1960s, interactions between their border communities who historically shared similar socio-economic way of life, and geographical proximity, have continued to be a source of concern to their countries.[110] The boundary separates similar tribes in Nigeria and Niger Republic; most of these tribes have the same sociological and historical background. They claimed to have come from the same origin. They have the same language, religion, ethnic and cultural practices. It is not common to see some inhabitants residing in one country that has no relations in the other side of the border. The implication of these socio-cultural ties between border communities of Nigeria-Niger Republic is that they interact without hindrance. The above demonstrate the artificiality and arbitrariness of the boundary demarcation and point out the link between the border communities. Historical and social ties between the border communities of Nigeria and Niger Republic in general are not destroyed by the international boundary sharing. This can be regarded as one of the most important ingredients that aided the bilateral relations between the countries. Apart from separating similar tribes between Nigeria and Niger

[109] Inuwa, M.M. (1993). The Nigeria-Niger Boundary 1890-1906; Evolution and Implications on Transborder Socio-Economic Activities in Asiwaju-Barkindo (ends Lagos, Longman) , PP.53-63

[110] Iliya, Mohammed, A. (2001) "Nigeria-Niger Transborder Cooperation: A Geographical and Historical Perspective", Lagos, Longman.

Republic daily and frequent movement of people across the border became rampant and continue to increase on daily basis.

Studies have been carried out with regard to the Nigeria-Niger Republic covering different aspects of border. For instance, Idris (2008), conducted a study on Nigeria-Niger Republic and Benin Republic on Tripartite Border Security, the study pointed out that, the joint security patrol across the borders promoted the security across the borderlands. Mokoshy, (1989), focused his study on the Relations among the Fulbe and the Hausa tribe across the Nigeria and Niger Republic borderlands, his study revealed that the Fulbe are in peaceful relations with the Hausa across the borderland. Holly, (2003), investigated in-depth on the Phenomenon of social and economic Inequality in Border Communities between Nigeria and Niger Republic and how they cope with such phenomenon. His study revealed that there is a higher rate of differences in social inequality among them because of differences in social and economic development among the two nations, but little or none has been written specifically on Kamba and Gaya borderlands.

It is against this background that this study seeks to address the following questions: What are the factors that necessitate the relationships between the border communities of Nigeria and Niger Republic? What is the nature and dynamics of the relationship of the areas under study? What are the roles played by different institutions such as African Union Border Management (AUBM) under the auspices of AU to ensure the successful conduct of the relations? What are the effects of these relationships and the prospects of integration process of the communities, the two countries and the region generally? This study seek to address the issues by appraising the experience of Kamba-Gaya borderlands and its impact on Nigeria-Niger Relations between (1999-2020)

## 13.1 LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

In terms of limitations, research across disciplines usually mourns one form of limitations or another. This may occur as a result of economic, socio-cultural, security or administrative factors. Certainly this work is not an exception. Research of this nature usually requires information from government institutions, some of this information may be restricted due to administrative or security reasons. Conducting interview with the border resident was considered to be easier because the researcher shares a similar cultural affinity with the

residents of the border. The respondents are likely to be concerned about why they are asked these questions and what exactly is the interest of the researcher is? They may expect that the information gathered would be passed on to the government of the two states agencies like: department of immigration, custom, and police. Others may think that, the researcher is an agent of one of the departments disguised as a researcher. All these are likely to affect the feedback of respondents despite good efforts to reassure respondents that information provided is not going to be divulged to any other sources apart from academics. Other limitation, include some materials are written in the French language which needs to be translated into English with the help of translators. These are some of the challenges that the researcher has gone through in the process of conducting this work which are of course limitations to the research.

## 14.1 ETHICAL CONSIDERATION OF THE STUDY:

The aim of this study has been to gather information, views and opinions about cross border community relations among Kamba (Nigeria)-Gaya (Niger Republic) borderlands from the general public. Therefore, ethical consideration would be acknowledged in this study concerning information, consent, and interpretation of the gathered data. Even though the aims and objectives of this study are uncontroversial, it is important to discuss the ethics of the study. Ethics are about principles, rules and guidelines which specify the proceedings are correct or incorrect. This is of great importance in social science research, especially when it involves human subjects. Ethical consideration will be noted throughout this work which includes getting consent from respondents and also their institutions.[111]

The prospective respondents would be given as much information as needed, to be able to decide their willingness to participate. This consideration has been realized by providing all the respondents about the aims and objectives of the study both by phone and information sheet. The respondents would be asked for permission for the interviews and they be promised that the information would not be used for any other purpose than this study.

[111]Bertram and Christiansen (2014). Understanding Research: An Introduction to Reading Research. Pretoria: Van Schaik Publishers Social Research Methods. Oxford University Press

Therefore, the gathered information would be carefully treated with respect to ethical considerations and sensitive comments will be avoided so as not to put respondents against each other. Instead, the focus has been to describe the respondent thoughts on cross-border relations, their experience, expectations and then discuss the implications in the near future.

### 15.1 Research Gap

The literature reviewed was aimed at promoting the reader to understands border community relations from numerous works undertaken in various communities around the globe. Apart from the above, border community relations along Kamba-Gaya international border require a detailed investigation. And to the best of the researcher's knowledge empirical studies has not been done along with the research on border community relations on this border in a single research of this nature. Therefore to the best of my knowledge this work is a model to the previous work already conducted along this border.

Moreover, most of the studies conducted along this border did not discuss about the role of AUBM in the region and its achievement towards strengthening of the cross-border relations amongst border communities in the field of economy, social, political aspects of life along the borders and the prospects of integrating the entire region with a view of achieving self- sufficiency in the region. To this one can emphatically say that this research work is a novelty to the above.

### 16.1 CHAPTERISATION

**The thesis consists of six chapters**

**Chapter1. Introduction**

The first chapter gives a detailed introduction about how dissected borderland communities of Kamba-Gaya view and use the Nigeria-Niger Republic international border. The study observed that to the border communities, the border is non-existent. Apart from the introduction, then the theoretical framework, conceptual definitions, review of related literature, research questions, significance of the study, justification of the study, objectives of the study, hypothesis, research methodology, statement of the problem, scope of the study, limitation of the study, ethical consideration, and research gaps.

.**Chapter II-** The Official Relations between Nigeria and the Republic of Niger:

**Chapter III**- Provides an overview of Border Community Relations in the Colonial period, the Relations between the Communities in the post-Colonial period and the current nature of the Relationship in the concept of Globalization

**Chapter IV-** The role of African Union Border Management (AUBM) in the Region and the Prospect of Socio-Economic and Political Integration: This chapter will explore the objective of the African Union Border Management in the region towards the integration process in the region. An attempt will be made to look into, the achievements and challenges of the union in the region. Finally the chapter will also look into the issues and impacts in the border community relations and challenges faced by the two countries in general.

**Chapter VI**

Chapter VI- deals precisely with the two country profile and a brief history of the two border communities.

**Chapter V**- This chapter will conclude the Study

In the conclusion, the main finding of the study will be discussed. Followed by the summary of the main findings, conclusion of the study. Recommendations would also be made based on the findings of the study and the contribution of the study to knowledge and suggestion for further study